

A NEW SPECIES OF *TILLANDSIA*
(SUBGENUS *ALLARDTIA*) FROM COLOMBIA

Harry E. Luther*

TILLANDSIA ABBREVIATA Luther, sp. nov.

T. reversae L. B. Smith affinis, laminis foliorum rotundatis apiculatis, scapis brevioribus et spicis stipitatis differt.

Plant stemless, flowering ca. 15 cm high; leaves few (ca. 10), 12 to 15 cm long; sheaths ample, obscurely brown-lepidote, dark purple above; blades ligulate, rounded and apiculate, flat, 25 mm wide, green with a thin red margin, glabrous above, very sparsely lepidote below; scape erect, very short, scarcely equalling the sheaths; scape bracts imbricate, ovate, acute; inflorescence digitate with 3 spikes; primary bracts very small, ovate, acute; spikes stipitate with 3 to 5 sterile bracts at the base, the fertile portion lanceolate, acute, strongly complanate, ca. 5 cm long, 15 to 18 mm wide, 8- to 10- flowered; floral bracts densely imbricate and concealing the rachis at anthesis, about equalling to slightly exceeding the sepals, elliptic, acute, the apex slightly incurved and sharply carinate, glabrous, rose red; sepals oblong, acute, 17 mm long, punctate-lepidote within, the posterior carinate and 2/3 connate; petals naked, ligulate, cucullate, 22 mm long, white at the apex and the base, pink just above the point of exertion from the sepals; stamens and pistil included.

TYPE: *Colombia:* Without specific locality. Flowered in cultivation by Franz-Georg Gruber (Gruber 39-22) of the nursery of Orchideas S.A., Fusagasuga, Colombia. Submitted by Dennis Cathcart, Bradenton, Florida. *H. E. Luther 333*, 15 July 1980, SEL herb. 034176. (Holotype: SEL).

Additional material examined: *Colombia:* Without specific locality. Flowered in cultivation by Franz-Georg Gruber (Gruber 39-22) of the nursery of Orchideas S.A., Fusagasuga, Colombia. Submitted by Jean Merkel, Boynton Beach, Florida. *H. E. Luther s.n.*, 18 Dec. 1979. SEL herb. 034177. (SEL).

This species is proposed with some hesitancy. *Tillandsia abbreviata* keys to *T. reversa* L. B. Smith in the latest treatment of the genus (Smith & Downs, 1977), but differs from this species by its much smaller habit, rounded and apiculate leaf blades, very short scape and distinctly stipitate branches. The dimensions and structure of the floral bracts and sepals are nearly identical to *T. reversa*, but due to the great dissimilarities in overall morphology, I consider *T. abbreviata* to be specifically distinct.

Acknowledgements

I thank Franz-Georg Gruber for bringing this interesting and ornamental species into cultivation, and Jean Merkel and Dennis Cathcart for obtaining it and bringing it to my attention. Special thanks is also given to the illustrator Lisa Megahee.

Literature Cited

Smith, Lyman B., and Robert J. Downs, 1977. *Flora Neotropica Monograph No. 14 (Bromeliaceae)*, Part 2 (*Tillandsioideae*), *Tillandsia*: 655-1068.

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